

## Sample Tennessee Public Charter School Application Timeline

Tennessee law requires public charter school sponsors to file an application with the local board of education on or before October 1 of the year before the school plans to open. The law requires local boards of education to rule on the application within sixty days of receipt of the application.

Below are two examples of the application timeline based on the filing deadline. Most local boards of education have set application windows just prior to October 1. At least one district, however, has moved the deadline up to April 1 of the year prior to school opening.

As this chart illustrates, the application acceptance window set by a local board of education can significantly alter the amount of time an approved public charter school has to prepare for opening successfully (including hiring personnel and securing a facility).

Charter Application Deadline	April 1, 2012	October 1, 2012
Sponsor submits letter of intent to Dept. of Ed.	February 1, 2012	August 2, 2012
Sponsor submits application to local board	April 1, 2012	October 1, 2012
Local board rules on initial application (60 days)	May 31, 2012	November 30, 2012
<i>If approved, local board signs charter agreement, which includes all elements of the application.</i>		
<i>If denied, board sends written objective reasons for denial to sponsor. If denied in whole or in part based on substantial negative fiscal impact, 2011 PC 466 requires detailed statistics to be included with written denial.</i>		
Sponsor submits amended application within 15 days of receipt of grounds for denial.	June 15, 2012	December 15, 2012
Local board rules on amended application (15 days)	June 30, 2012	December 30, 2012
<i>If approved, local board signs charter agreement, which includes all elements of the application.</i>		
<i>If denied, board sends written objective reasons for denial to sponsor. At this point, the appeal may go directly to the state board of education, or first to the treasurer.</i>		
<i>If the amended application is denied in whole or in part based on substantial negative fiscal impact, 2011 PC 466 requires detailed statistics to be included with written denial and submitted to the State Treasurer.</i>		
Local board sends written objective reasons for denial to sponsor, and required information to treasurer within 5 days.	July 5, 2012	January 4, 2012
Sponsor may submit response and supporting documentation to treasurer.	July 5, 2012	January 4, 2012
Treasurer determines reasonableness of denial within 30 days.	August 4, 2012	February 3, 2012
<i>If the treasurer determines that the LEA established that approval of this charter school application would have a substantial negative fiscal impact, the process ends. But, if the treasurer determines that the LEA did not establish that approval of this charter school application would have a substantial negative fiscal impact, the following procedure applies.</i>		
Sponsor may appeal to state board of education within 5 days of the treasurer's determination.	August 9, 2012	February 8, 2012
State board of education or its designee holds a hearing in the LEA and rules within 60 days of receipt of the appeal.	October 8, 2012	April 9, 2012

<i>If the amended application is not denied based on a substantial negative fiscal impact, the following procedure applies.</i>		
Sponsor appeals to state board of education within 10 days of final local decision.	July 10, 2012	January 9, 2013
State board of education or its designee holds a hearing in the LEA and rules within 60 days of receipt of the appeal.	September 8, 2012	March 10, 2013
<i>The state board can affirm the denial by the local board of education or remand the decision with written instructions for local board approval of the charter.</i>		
Planning period	10 or 11 months	4 or 5 months
<b>School opens</b>	July/August 2013	July/August 2013